

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

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March 17, 2005

TO ALL POTENTIAL APPLICANTS:

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)
BEGIN Program
“Building Equity and Growth in Neighborhoods”
\$24 MILLION**

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for funds under the BEGIN Program authorized by Chapter 14.5 (commencing with Section 50860) of Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code. Funding was provided by Proposition 46, the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2002. The attached NOFA and all applications are governed by BEGIN Program Guidelines, adopted as amended March 4, 2005.

This NOFA provides funds to cities, counties, and cities and counties for mortgage assistance loans to low- or moderate-income first-time homebuyers in newly constructed homeownership units in BEGIN projects.

The BEGIN program is designed to foster partnerships between local jurisdictions and housing developers encouraging them to join together to reduce the cost and increase the supply of new homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income households. The local jurisdiction's role is to offer specific forms of regulatory relief, regulatory barrier removal, or incentive to the identified BEGIN projects that reduce the per-unit cost of the housing.

Applications under this NOFA are being accepted on an “over-the-counter” basis, beginning on March 18, 2005. Applications will be reviewed in the order that they are submitted, and eligible applications will be funded until all funds are allocated, or the NOFA is closed.

Copies of this BEGIN Program NOFA, the application and the BEGIN Program Guidelines will be available on HCD's website at www.hcd.ca.gov/ca/begin no later than March 18, 2005. You may also contact the BEGIN program staff for either the NOFA or application forms. If you have any questions regarding the NOFA or require assistance in completing your application, please contact BEGIN Program staff at (916) 327-2855.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

William J. Pavão, Deputy Director
Division of Community Affairs

Enclosure